

ATTACHMENT 6

Memorandum Regarding Funding for Additional Proposals in the North Bay Area



Memorandum

Date: February 4, 1998
To: Ecosystem Roundtable Members
From: Cindy Darling
Subject: Additional Funding for Proposals

At the January meeting of the Ecosystem Roundtable, the package of proposals recommended for approval did not contain funding for additional projects in the North Bay. This was based on the technical recommendations from the Integration Panel. Roundtable members discussed this issue and generally recommended that the package of proposals go forward as proposed and restoration needs in the North Bay be addressed as priorities are revised for the next funding round.

This recommendation was forwarded to the CALFED Management Team along with the package of proposals. The Management Team identified several policy considerations which would lead to funding of additional proposals in the North Bay. Using these considerations, they recommended funding of \$2.626 million for five projects which was approved by the Policy Group at their January 26 meeting. The Bay Delta Advisory Council discussed this recommendation at their January 29 meeting and generally favored proceeding with the recommendations of the Management Team. The five proposals and funding amounts are listed below and the executive summaries of each proposal are attached to this memo. We can answer any questions at the Roundtable meeting regarding funding for these proposals.

Title	Sponser	Funding Amount
Ecosystem Goals Project	EPA	\$76,000
Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project	Coastal Conservancy	\$1 million
Napa River Watershed Stewardship	Napa Resource Conservation District	\$250,000
Sonoma Creek Watershed Restoration Project	South Sonoma RCD	\$300,000
Napa River Wetland Acquisition Project	Napa County Land Trust	\$1 million

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

I. Executive Summary

Project Title: South Napa River Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Program

Project Description/Ecological Objectives: The proposed acquisition and restoration of 956 acres of historical wetlands adjacent to the Napa River from five different private property owners - represents a unique opportunity for restoration of native marshland habitat in the North Bay. The properties proposed for restoration comprise some of the most important potential restoration sites in the San Francisco Bay estuary and will, when restored, improve habitat quality for several federally-listed species, including the Delta smelt and Sacramento splittail. The Stanly Ranch wetlands at the southern boundary of the project area and the Stewart and Ghisletta properties to the north (See Exhibit 3) have long been acquisition targets of the Napa County Land Trust and the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) due to both their importance as historical wetlands and that they are at risk of development and annexation into the City of Napa. Once these lands are acquired, proposed restoration will modify or remove levees and other structural interventions to restore and enhance natural wetland functions. These activities will promote habitat goals specific to this region.

Justification for Project and CALFED Funding: All of the lowlands proposed for acquisition are immediately adjacent to the DFG's Napa Marsh Project and all are contemplated for acquisition in DFG's current master plan. The proposal focuses on species and habitats whose restoration will result in achieving the CALFED mission to "restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system..." The CALFED objective of "improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species" is clearly addressed by this proposal. Furthermore, this project site is located at the "crossroads" of three distinct sources of development pressure - the City of Napa immediately to the north, the City of American Canyon (3 miles to the south) and the Napa Airport Industrial area (1 mile to the southwest), the latter projected by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to be the fastest growing employment center in the Bay Area (See Exhibit 1).

An additional benefit may develop as a by-product of this project. The proposed Napa River Flood Control Project - which has evolved from a classic Army Corps of Engineers concrete-oriented, channelization project (1995) into a community-based, environmentally-sensitive plan - would also require the acquisition of these properties to expand the floodplain and marshland ecosystem as a key component of the new plan. Although the implementation of the flood control project is dependent upon Napa County's adoption of a 1/2-cent sales tax by the voters in the next few months, the acquisition and restoration project being proposed here will provide its primary benefits whether or not the flood control project moves forward and, therefore, is *not* contingent upon the success of the flood control project.

It is important to note that, while the flood control project - if implemented - would offer funding for most of the acquisition aspects of this project, it would not provide for purchase of the Southern Stanly Ranch property. In addition, CALFED funding is critical in the absence of the flood control project for both acquisition and restoration.

Applicant Qualifications: The Napa County Land Trust (NCLT) seeks to "acquire and preserve natural resources and wildlife areas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, to preserve and protect historic sites, to educate the public about the wise use of natural resources and to work with other organizations having similar purposes."

In response to growing development pressures, the NCLT was formed in 1976 by a group of residents who cared about the Napa Valley and shared concerns about the protection of agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and open space lands that together sustain ecological diversity and a rural way of life. The NCLT is a member-supported, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with an annual operating budget of \$250,000 funded primarily by membership dues, charitable contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations, and income from a small endowment. Working primarily in the private sector, with no ongoing support from any taxing authority or government agency, the NCLT has succeeded in permanently protecting over 11,000 acres of open space and agricultural land to date thanks to dedicated volunteer leadership and financial support from loyal members. Operations are carried out by a 15-member Board of Trustees and a small professional staff.

Approach/Budget/Schedule: As indicated in Exhibit 2, we have adopted a 3-phase approach to this project. In each of the three phases, we propose to acquire property - simultaneously transferring title to DFG - with restoration

activities to be performed on these properties once title is conveyed. These activities will include the breaching and/or removal of existing levees and the design and construction of new setback levees along the boundaries between wetlands and uplands, among others. The three phases are scheduled to occur one year apart, starting in 1998.

Project costs are delineated in two ways - first, "Acquisition & Restoration", and second, "Administrative", with the latter category including staff time, overhead, and professional services (e.g. appraisers, attorneys, title and escrow fees). Please note that the acquisition costs have been estimated at two possible levels of appraised value - \$5,000 and \$7,500 per acre. Including an estimated total of \$250,000 per phase for restoration planning and implementation activities, it is estimated that the total cost of the three phases is as follows:

<u>Phase 1:</u>	\$1,390,000/\$1,960,000 (\$5,000/acre vs. \$7,500/acre) plus \$45,750 for Administration
<u>Phase 2:</u>	\$1,425,000/\$2,012,500 (" " ") plus \$46,787 " "
<u>Phase 3:</u>	\$2,715,000/\$3,947,500 (" " ") plus \$45,901 " "

Therefore, the total amount of funding being requested at this time - for Phase 1 only - is \$2,005,750. Please be advised that there is a possibility of higher appraised values due to a precedent-setting sale of one of these properties at \$10,000 per acre in 1995. However, our request assumes the \$7,500 figure indicated above. In the event that a higher appraised value is forthcoming, we believe that other revenue sources will be available to absorb the extra cost. At this time the private landowners in Phase 1 of the project are willing sellers and a Request for Proposals to qualified appraisers has been distributed. The successful appraiser will be notified on August 1 with completed work expected by September 1. At that time we will have a bona fide appraisal of fair market values for the Phase 1 acquisitions.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation - The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will take fee title to the property upon purchase and will maintain it in perpetuity and, in the event that the Napa River Flood Control Project is implemented, would provide flood easements on these properties to the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), comprised of the County Board of Supervisors, the Mayors of the five municipalities in the County, plus one additional Councilmember from the City of Napa.

Please note however, that if the flood control project is approved, the Army Corps of Engineers will perform the actual restoration activities as part of that project. If the flood control project is not approved, these activities will be performed by either DFG or the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Local Support and Coordination: Local support is extensive and is documented by the enclosed resolution of the District. The proposed CALFED project, while beneficial on its own merits, would also provide a great deal of benefit to the Napa River Flood Control Project. This project is currently being redesigned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - in accordance with the "Living River" principles and parameters articulated by the "Community Coalition for a Napa River Flood Management Plan" - is a notable exception to most concrete-oriented Army Corps projects. In 1995, a Corps project was designed which was soundly rejected by both the community at large and the federal, state, and regional resource agencies (e.g. Bay Area Water Quality Board, State Fish and Game Department, etc.). Since that time, the Coalition was formed, which included representatives of those resource agencies, among many other diverse interests. The process of redesigning the Army Corps' project to one which is environmentally-sensitive is complete, currently awaiting the reissuance of the Army Corps General Design Memorandum and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The basic concept underlying this revised Flood Control Plan is to widen the flood plain, allowing the river to overflow its banks downstream onto lands which are primarily used for agricultural purposes or as open space. Some properties will require acquisition by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, including those currently occupied for residential and commercial uses. However, the properties in the downstream reaches of the flood control project are being requested under this CALFED proposal. One of the primary benefits of the flood control plan - in the minds of the Coalition members - is the restoration of wetlands and habitat as a result of the acquisition of these particular properties.

I. Executive Summary

RESTORATION OF A LARGE TIDAL MARSH: THE NAPA-SONOMA MARSH COMPLEX

California Coastal Conservancy (for Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex Restoration Committee)

B. Project Description and Primary Ecological Objectives: This project will provide scientific support for large-scale restoration and adaptive management of the 40,000-acre Napa Sonoma Marsh Complex (Figure 1). The participants are a strong coalition of academic, private sector, and governmental scientists and managers familiar with regional wetlands functions and values. The participants have been meeting since fall 1996 to design this project. Through this project, wetlands managers and scientists will work together to meet three main objectives.

1. Produce a numerical model of the hydrology, sediment dynamics, and certain water quality variables of the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex to enable land managers to investigate the habitat response of various restoration scenarios. The size and complexity of the study area afford an opportunity for a balanced plan to conserve, enhance, or restore various land uses and habitats. Numerical modeling is required to forecast how land use changes and habitats relate to another, and for staged implementation of comprehensive restoration plans.

2. Produce protocols for monitoring wetlands geomorphology, water and sediment quality, fishes and other aquatic resources, waterfowl, shorebirds, and riparian birds as key aspects of wetlands health. Monitoring will be required to inform restoration designs, adaptive management of the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex. Standard, interagency protocols are needed to assess regional as well as local conditions, and to assure data are comparable from place to place and through time. The proposed work will yield an interagency monitoring program for wetlands in the North Bay area that could be expanded to include other regions of the Bay-Delta system.

3. Produce guidelines and recommendations for natural restoration of tidal marshes in the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex. These products will address critical restoration topics such as the sequence, timing, and freshwater requirements for safe desalination of salt ponds; how to minimize physical and biological stressors for tidal marshes and adjacent lands, monitoring design, and institutional arrangements for cost-effective monitoring and data management.

C. Approach, Tasks, Schedule: The overall approach is to develop technical tools for large-scale wetlands restoration and assessment through close collaboration among regional scientific experts and wetlands managers. The work plan is to build technical teams around baseline field work and then proceed with team concurrence through a series of field tests to provide appropriate numerical hydrological model(s) and monitoring protocols. Over the next 3 years, the participants will begin to implement a plan of tidal marsh restoration and monitoring in the Sonoma Marsh Complex that is sensitive to surrounding ecological and land use constraints. The following table outlines the proposed work as a set of 11 major tasks.

Year	Task	Description of Major Task
1	1	Produce a photographic base map for the study area.
1	2	Form technical teams for modeling, habitat monitoring, and ecological resource monitoring.
1	3	Compile existing information and refine objectives for management, modeling, and monitoring.
1	4	Measure areas, cross-sections, and tidal elevations for tidal and non-tidal landscapes.
1	5	Measure tidal hydrodynamics and sediment transport in tidal channels throughout the study area.
1,2	6	Measure and analyze habitat support functions for priority fishes and birds.
1,2	7	Measure and analyze water and sediment quality for salt ponds.
1,2	8	Analyze hydrodynamic and sediment transport data and develop conceptual model.
1,2,3	9	Develop monitoring protocols for priority species and habitats, plus appropriate QA/QC plans.
1,2,3	10	Develop numerical model(s) of tidal channel hydrodynamics and sediment transport, and provide the model(s) to local and regional users.
1,2,3	11	Produce reports and make recommendations based on project results.

D. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED: The proposed project is entirely consistent with the objectives of the CALFED ERPP. The project will benefit 5 of the 7 priority habitats, 7 of the 10 priority species, and will address 7 of the 12 major stressors listed by CALFED. The study area is entirely within the "North San Francisco Bay" area of the ERPP geographic scope (Figure 1). The project participants provide partnerships among academia, non-governmental institutions, the private sector, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

The proposed project is patently desirable. The natural ecological functions of the study area have been severely altered during the last 150 years by conversion of tidal wetlands and adjacent uplands to salt ponds, hay fields, viticulture, and pasture (compare Figures 1 and 2). Plans to restore some of the natural functions of these lands are emerging through the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project, the US COE Napa River Salt Marsh Reconnaissance Study, and in-house plans for CDFG and US FWS properties. Integration and implementation of these plans will require the broad base of scientific and management support that this project can provide. Successful restoration will depend upon the proposed work to understand the local hydrologic and sediment transport processes that control aqueous and soil salinity within the former salt ponds, the performance of levees that protect non-tidal resources, the effectiveness of levee breaches to restore tidal marshlands, and the overall form and function of the marshlands. Adaptive management of the marshlands will depend upon the monitoring protocols that this project will provide to forecast problems in the field and measure progress. The project will provide numerous direct and indirect benefits to managers of the Napa-Sonoma marsh Complex, with significant practical applications throughout the Bay-Delta system.

E. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts: The overall budget for this project is \$1,317,502 for 3 years of effort. Based upon government salaries and existing equipment and supplies that will be dedicated to this project, the total estimated value of matching funds and in-kind services is about \$1,255,00. No direct third party impacts are expected from this project.

F. Applicant Qualifications: The Coastal Conservancy was created by the Legislature in 1976 as a unique entity with flexible powers to work in partnership with public agencies and non-profit organizations to protect and preserve coastal resources. The Conservancy has undertaken more than 640 projects along the California coast and for San Francisco Bay. It has helped to preserve and/or enhance more than 32,700 acres in tidal and freshwater wetlands, coastal streams, watersheds, and farm lands.

G. Monitoring and Data Evaluation: This is a essentially a monitoring and modeling effort. Success will be measured by the degree to which tasks are performed, the model(s) adequately predict changes to the system, and data are consistently collected, interpreted, analyzed, and distributed to the interested parties

H. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives: This proposal has been reviewed and is supported in concept and technical detail by the principal investigators for the Sonoma Creek Watershed Plan, the Napa River Watershed Plan, the US COE Napa River Salt Marsh Feasibility Study, the Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances, and the Regional Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project. The following organizations would be directly involved in this project: US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Coastal Conservancy, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, US Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Survey UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Stanford University, Napa Resource Conservation District, Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Philip Williams and Associates, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board have been attending meetings and providing input and regulatory guidance on proposed activities.

F1-092

I. Executive Summary

Project Title: Napa River Watershed Stewardship

Applicant Name: Napa County Resource Conservation District

Project Description and Objectives: This project proposal is intended to address a broad range of ecological and biological values in the Napa River watershed, including steelhead and salmon populations, and improved wetlands and floodplain functions. Program objectives are to implement the recommendations listed in the Napa River Watershed Owner's Manual, a framework for integrated watershed management of the Napa River watershed. Specifically, this program will address the first six of the nine listed objectives of the management plan: 1) *Stabilize streams using natural processes*, 2) *Promote contiguous habitat*, 3) *Increase biological diversity*, 4) *Increase migratory and resident fish habitat*, 5) *Coordinate natural resource protection and planning*, and 6) *Encourage local land Stewardship*.

The proposal is presented in three separable, but mutually supportive segments designed to restore ecological health to the Napa River watershed. The first is expansion of locally based *Stewardship Watershed Management* of the tributary watersheds to the Napa River. The second segment involves support for those Stewardship groups through *Watershed Monitoring and Computer Modeling* of watershed functions. The third segment is to provide direct support for implementation of *Riparian Corridor and Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Management* that includes demonstration sites to encourage restoration expansion, cost sharing to assist with floodplain and spawning habitat restoration, and levee setbacks to attenuate flood damages while improving the natural biological support of floodplain and riparian habitats.

Approach/Tasks/Schedule: The approach to execution of the projects is Stewardship Watershed Management developed at the Napa County Resource Conservation District. The approach emphasizes broad stakeholder involvement; consensus management using interest-based planning; results-based (as opposed to procedure-based) success criteria; and extensive monitoring coupled with flexible management that responds to monitoring feedback. The tasks and their timelines described under each of the three proposal segments (*Stewardship Watershed Management*, *Watershed Computer Modeling and Monitoring*, and *Riparian Corridor and Aquatic Habitat Restoration*) are intended to support the establishment of locally led environmental management that is self-sustaining and coordinated through the uniform guidance of the community's Watershed Owner's Manual. This proposal package describes and requests funding for the first year of a three-year effort.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED: This program will enhance and restore the following CALFED priority habitats in the Napa River watershed: seasonal wetland and aquatic habitat, instream aquatic habitat, and shaded riverine aquatic habitat. It will do so through development of local partnerships to encourage long-term effective habitat management while reducing conflicts related to those resources. Primary species of concern benefiting from this program are steelhead trout, splittail, Delta smelt, green sturgeon, striped bass, and migratory birds. Currently, habitat for these species is severely degraded due to alterations in stream

channel morphology, removal of freshwater and tidal wetlands, and excessive erosion and sediment in the system.

Costs and Third Party Impacts: The proposed program is divided into three separable elements that are intended to support one another. The total anticipated first-year cost of this program is \$682,380, of which the amount requested from CALFED is \$347,200. The remaining \$335,180 will be supplied by the participant and collaborators as matching funds. This is intended as a three-year program, with the second and third years together totaling an additional \$594,000. No third party impacts requiring mitigation are expected with this program.

Applicant Qualifications: The Napa County Resource Conservation District has been operating since 1945 to assist local landowners with natural resource conservation in the District. Employees listed in the proposal are trained in the use of computer modeling, database management, GIS, volunteer monitoring training and organization, landscape architecture, and watershed stewardship facilitation. The District has developed a training program for other agencies and groups that provides consultation and education in developing and maintaining effective watershed management programs. Among the grants successfully carried out by the District are the following: Dept. of Pesticide Regulation Integrated Pest Management Grant (1997), EPA 205(J) planning grant for Huichica Creek Management Plan (1995), EPA 319 grant for creation of a watershed stewardship program and Napa River Watershed Owner's Manual (1994).

Monitoring and Data Evaluation: The District has an established monitoring program with protocols, training, and both a relational and GIS database. It has a strong cooperative relationship with regional monitoring programs such as the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. The protocols and database already in use will be extended as appropriate to provide tools for the monitoring of restoration projects. Data will be reviewed and evaluated by the District and cooperators on an on-going basis as well as annually by a team comprised of local interest groups and agency personnel. Data will be made available for general distribution through the next edition of the Owner's Manual and via digital formats.

Local Support and CALFED Compatibility: The local community has expressed support for the restoration and maintenance of the ecological health of the Napa River watershed in a variety of ways, including active participation in the creation of the Owner's Manual and the Community Coalition for Floodplain Management, and through votes to establish an erosion control ordinance and parcel tax for watershed management. The District works formally and informally with community partners of varied interests who desire to protect and preserve water quality, aquatic and riverine habitats, and the species they support: the Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group, Pierce's Disease Task Force, Friends of the Napa River, Napa/Solano Audubon Society, Redwood Ornithological Society, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Napa Valley Steelhead, City and County of Napa, local stewardships and individual landowners, and numerous other state and federal agencies.

I. Executive Summary

**A. Sonoma Creek Watershed Conservancy: Watershed Restoration Program
Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District**

B. Project Description/Objectives

Priority Species Benefited

Steelhead trout

Winter-run chinook salmon

Priority Habitats Restored

Instream Aquatic

Shaded Riverine Aquatic

The Sonoma Creek Watershed Restoration Program is a community based, collaborative public/private effort to weave elements of habitat restoration, conservation outreach, community volunteerism and watershed assessment together with adaptive watershed management. The **primary biological objectives** are to restore and enhance priority habitats and species identified above and improve threatened and endangered species habitats for California freshwater shrimp, and red-legged frog within the watershed. The **primary ecological objectives** are to implement a scientifically based, technically sound program of watershed assessment and continue outreach efforts to: (1) establish baseline data to support future restoration work and provide a scientific foundation for monitoring programs; and (2) maintain continuity with recent watershed planning efforts to expedite implementation of the watershed plan.

Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District (SSCRCD) working together with San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) and Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance (SVVGA) have formed a partnership to expedite the restoration of Sonoma Creek Watershed by:

1. Implementation of priority habitat restoration projects recommended by the Sonoma Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan (1997) and Sonoma Creek Habitat Inventory (1996). These projects will mitigate the following CALFED identified stressors:

Stressors

Alteration of Flows

Channel Form Changes

Water Quality

Water Temperature

Undesirable Species Interactions

Land Use

Sub-stressors

Migration Barriers

Loss of Existing Riparian Zone

Lack of Regeneration Potential

Alteration of Channel Form

Channel Aggradation Due to Fine Sediment

Grazing/ Urbanization

Forestry and Agricultural Practices

2. Fund a watershed coordinator to: (a) provide adaptive management and oversight of all watershed restoration and assessment projects; (b) coordinate and facilitate bi-monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings to review data, interim progress reports and provide direction; (c) continue outreach, e.g. watershed newsletter.

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3. Develop baseline data to fill identified data gaps through implementation of a scientifically based, technically sound method of watershed assessment developed by SFEI. A comprehensive assessment of hydrology, geomorphology, and sedimentation will provide water quality, flow, channel form changes, and other pertinent information (in GIS format) and will bolster SEC's monitoring program.

C. Approach/Tasks/Schedule The SSCRCD will hire a watershed coordinator to manage projects and programs under this proposal and oversee sub-contractors - specifically SFEI, SEC, and SVVGA. The watershed coordinator will report directly to the SSCRCD Board of Directors. The Sonoma Creek Watershed Restoration Program will involve concurrent execution habitat restoration projects, implementation of watershed science/assessment plan, and focused watershed management by the watershed coordinator. This program of restoration will be accomplished over a period of one to three years depending on the specific task (see Timeline, Section IV. B). SSCRCD Restoration projects will begin immediately following a signed contract with CALFED.

D. Justification

- The projects and programs in this proposal focus on high-risk species and habitats and provide broad ecosystem benefits meeting the objectives for Category III funding and CALFED Bay -Delta Program.
- This proposal is a collaborative effort to address priority species, habitats and stressors identified in the CALFED ERPP located in the CALFED North Bay Solution Area.
- The District has recently completed a watershed plan with funding from SWRCB for this 170-square mile watershed supported by the community and key local, state and federal agencies and private organizations (see section H).
- CALFED funds will leverage other funds and expedite current restoration and assessment efforts underway.

E. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts The CALFED request for this project is \$399,729 for the first year of a 3-year \$1,726,029.00 restoration program. No adverse third party impacts are expected.

F. Applicant Qualifications The Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District is well qualified to administer all elements of this proposal (see Section V).

G. Monitoring and Data Evaluation Restoration projects in this proposal include one year of post project monitoring. Data collected will be reviewed by the TAC and project partners to ensure QA/QC.

H. Local Support/Coordination/CALFED Compatibility The project has local and regional support from NRCS, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and Bouverie Audubon Canyon Preserve. This program will coordinate with other programs (see Section V) and complement previous and current efforts totaling over \$500,000. This proposal is entirely consistent with CALFED objectives (see D above).

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Project Title and Applicant Name—

San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project
San Francisco Estuary Institute

B. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives —

The Goals Project is a multi-agency, interdisciplinary planning effort whose main objective is to identify the kinds, amounts, and distribution of wetlands and related habitats needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of fish and wildlife resources in the San Francisco Bay area. When completed, the goals will provide guidance for private, local, state, and federal entities seeking to protect and improve the region's wetlands. The habitat goals will also provide the biological basis for a regional wetlands management plan, the development of which is scheduled to begin in mid-1998.

In collaboration with members of the Goals Project's Resource Managers Group, the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) is seeking CALFED funding to complete wetlands habitat goals for the North Bay and Suisun Bay sub-regions.

C. Approach/Tasks/Schedule —

Participants in the Goals Project have worked for two years towards establishing habitat goals. The process has included identifying the Bayland's wetlands habitats and representative species of plants, fish, and wildlife that inhabit them; assembling and analyzing data and other information regarding historical and current distributions of habitats and species; and describing the ecological relationships between the habitats and species. Project technical teams are now beginning to prepare habitat recommendations; these recommendations will be combined into an integrated set of recommendations for the amounts and distribution of the various wetland habitat types. The goals will be expressed as quantitative and qualitative objectives and will be described in narratives and in maps and other graphics.

Staff of the San Francisco Estuary Institute have provided technical assistance and support to the Goals Project participants throughout the life of the project. In assisting participants to complete the preparation of habitat goals for the North Bay and Suisun Bay sub-regions, SFEI will conduct nine tasks between October 1997 and May 1998:

1. Digitize combined focus team map and derive habitat metrics. The map and attendant metrics — acreages of each major habitat type, range of habitat patch sizes, and the mix of minor habitats — will form the basis of the project's preliminary habitat recommendations.
2. Develop a simple scenario planning model to facilitate habitat scenario planning using SFEI's GIS, the EcoAtlas.
3. Apply the model developed in Task 2 to help project participants quickly develop several alternative scenarios using the EcoAtlas to illustrate various ways of attaining the habitat goals.
4. Distribute the EcoAtlas to all of the RMG agencies and assist appropriate staff in its use.
5. Assist Goals Project participants to prepare a draft Habitat Goals document for public review and comment. This report will provide background information on the Goals Project and process, and it will present the goals in narrative and graphic formats.

6. Prepare large-format poster displays of the technical team materials and the draft goals for presentations at three public workshops.
7. Assist Goals Project participants to prepare a final Habitat Goals document for public dissemination.
8. Assist the Goals Project participants to prepare a Baylands Ecosystem report that describes the Baylands species, habitats, and the functional relationships between species and habitats. SFEI will assist in assembling, editing, and publishing the report.
9. Provide technical and science support to the Resource Managers Group, technical focus teams, and Hydrogeomorphic Advisory Team.

D. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED —

Regional wetlands habitat goals are needed for several reasons: To provide integrated guidance with a regional perspective for entities seeking to restore and improve wetlands; to provide the biological basis for a regional wetlands management plan; to help resources agencies develop a consensus regarding the values of various wetlands types; and to assist CALFED in deciding appropriate wetlands projects to fund. In particular, the habitat goals will provide CALFED a stronger scientific basis on which to base decisions regarding the restoration of certain kinds of wetlands in the North Bay and Suisun Bay sub-regions as described in the CALFED Environmental Restoration Program Plan.

E. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts —

The Goals Project has received funding from a variety of local, state, and federal entities. Direct funding to date totals \$643,000. In addition, more than one hundred technical experts from the private and public sectors have contributed in-kind services valued at about \$932,000.

SFEI and the Resource Managers Group seeks \$76,053 from CALFED to complete the habitat goals for the North Bay and Suisun Bay sub-regions. We estimate that project participants will contribute about \$200,000 of in-kind services to complete the goals in these areas.

We believe there will be no direct third party impacts resulting from the preparation of habitat goals for the North Bay and Suisun Bay sub-regions.

F. Applicant Qualifications —

SFEI has provided science guidance and technical support to the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project for more than two years. At SFEI, Dr. Joshua Collins is the primary technical contact. At the request of the Resource Managers Group and under the direction of the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Dr. Collins undertakes specific tasks. As appropriate, Dr. Collins also directs his staff to undertake specific tasks. Staff include Mr. Robin Grossinger, Mr. Zoltan Der, and Ms. Adrienne Yang.

G. Monitoring and Data Evaluation —

The project entails no monitoring. Monitoring of wetlands projects will be a part of future implementation. Data sets in the SFEI GIS include appropriate metadata.

H. Local Support/Coordination/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives —

The Goals Project enjoys extensive support from dozens of local, state, and federal agencies and from the private sector. It is well coordinated with many government wetlands habitat and regulatory programs and is completely compatible with CALFED